

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In an exhaust emission control apparatus having an NO_x catalyst disposed on an exhaust passage of an internal combustion engine, the present
5 invention is intended to suppress deterioration in exhaust emissions when the temperature of the NO_x catalyst is raised. In case where the temperature of the NO_x catalyst need be raised, an amount of nitrogen oxides occluded in the NO_x catalyst is decreased in advance to the raising of the temperature of the NO_x catalyst, whereby the amount of nitrogen oxides to be discharged from
10 the NO_x catalyst upon raising the temperature of the NO_x catalyst can be decreased.